Custody Case SCS 2 of 2

(408)

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

COMMITTEES:
EDUCATION AND LABOR
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

SCS

November 29, 1977

02 DEC 1977
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKING
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED
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Mr. Douglas J. Bennett
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I draw your attention to the attached letter which I received today, November 29, from Joseph Freitas, District Attorney for the City and County of San Francisco.

Pursuant to this letter, and in light of the fact that a court hearing will be held in early December to determine whether the Government of Guyana will comply with the California court order, I strongly urge that the State Department take all necessary and proper steps to ensure that the court proceedings in Guyana are conducted in a fair and proper manner.

ENC.

Sincerely,

Phil Burton

PHILLIP BURTON
Member of Congress

PB:nal

RE: WELFARE OF JOHN VICTOR STOEN ILLEGALLY TAKEN BY REV. JIM JONES TO GUYANA

FROM: JOSEPH FREITAS

DOCUMENT ANALYSIS
1977 DEC 1 PM 4 39

(3)

THIS STATIONERY PRINTED ON PAPER MADE WITH RECYCLED FIBERS

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

SAN FRANCISCO

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RECEIVED
NOV 29 1977

November 25, 1977

Hon. Phillip Burton
The House of Representatives
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, Ca. 94102

Re: Request for Assistance in Enforcement of Court Order Against Rev. Jim Jones in Guyana

Dear Sir:

On November 18, 1977, the Superior Court of the State of California ordered our office to "take all actions necessary to locate Reverend Jim Jones and to secure Reverend Jim Jones' compliance with this order." Paragraph 4 of the order (a copy attached) states:

> "It is ordered that Reverend Jim Jones will immediately deliver the minor, JOHN VICTOR STOEN, to the Petitioner, GRACE LUCY STOEN, or to her authorized representative."

According to our information, the underlying facts are that Rev. Jim Jones, a United States citizen, is living in Guyana, South America, where he is exercising physical custody over John Victor Stoen, a 5-year old child who is also a United States citizen. Rev. Jones has refused to deliver the child to his legal parents, each of whom testified before the court and joined the request for the order issued. Our office is representing the court pursuant to Section 4700(c) of the California Civil Code.

We are respectfully asking you to use whatever influence you have to help us obtain Rev. Jones' compliance with the aforesaid order. If we cannot obtain Rev. Jones' compliance in this manner, it will be our duty pursuant to Section 5160 of the California Civil Code to apply to the court for a warrant of arrest against Rev. Jones.

We will be most grateful for whatever you can do to help. Time may be of the essence. Please let our office know if you need further information.

Thank you very much indeed.

Very truly yours,

JOSEPH FREITAS, JR.

Enc. Superior Court Order
dated November 18, 1977